

IN THE SENATE

SENATE BILL NO. 1291

BY RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

AN ACT

1 RELATING TO RANGELANDS; AMENDING CHAPTER 7, TITLE 38, IDAHO CODE, BY THE AD-  
2 DITION OF A NEW SECTION 38-715, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE FOR THE CREATION  
3 OF THE RANGELAND CENTER IN THE UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO, TO PROVIDE FOR THE  
4 DIRECTOR OF THE RANGELAND CENTER, TO PROVIDE DUTIES AND TO PROVIDE FOR  
5 CONTROL BY THE STATE BOARD OF REGENTS THROUGH THE DEANS OF THE COLLEGES  
6 OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURAL AND LIFE SCIENCES, TO PROVIDE FOR  
7 POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE RANGELAND CENTER AND TO PROVIDE FOR A PARTNER  
8 ADVISORY COUNCIL; AMENDING CHAPTER 7, TITLE 38, IDAHO CODE, BY THE AD-  
9 DITION OF A NEW SECTION 38-716, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE FOR THE RANGELAND  
10 CENTER ACT; AND PROVIDING SEVERABILITY.  
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12 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

13 SECTION 1. That Chapter 7, Title 38, Idaho Code, be, and the same is  
14 hereby amended by the addition thereto of a NEW SECTION, to be known and des-  
15 ignated as Section 38-715, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

16 38-715. RANGELAND CENTER CREATED -- DIRECTOR -- DUTIES -- CONTROL BY  
17 STATE BOARD OF REGENTS -- POWERS AND DUTIES OF RANGELAND CENTER -- PARTNER  
18 ADVISORY COUNCIL. (1) There is hereby created and established in the univer-  
19 sity of Idaho, a rangeland center, for the purpose of creating a new model  
20 for interdisciplinary research, education and outreach to fulfill the uni-  
21 versity's land grant mission. The center shall be comprised of researchers  
22 and educators from the college of natural resources, the college of agricul-  
23 tural and life sciences, the university of Idaho cooperative extension and  
24 other colleges or units in the university of Idaho, and other research agen-  
25 cies, colleges and universities with expertise in, but not limited to, graz-  
26 ing, rangeland ecology, entomology, soil science, economics, rural sociol-  
27 ogy, fish and wildlife management, invasive plant management, forage pro-  
28 duction, animal science, restoration and the use of spatial technologies to  
29 understand rangelands.

30 (2) The fiscal and human resources of the rangeland center shall be un-  
31 der the management of a director who shall hold an academic appointment in a  
32 department within the university of Idaho, or joint appointment in depart-  
33 ments.

34 (a) The director shall have the following duties:

35 (i) To report to the deans of the college of natural resources  
36 and the college of agricultural and life sciences and the direc-  
37 tor of the university of Idaho cooperative extension on rangeland  
38 center activities and accomplishments annually and when otherwise  
39 requested;

40 (ii) To work closely with the partner advisory council to identify  
41 and set priorities for the rangeland center;

1 (iii) To seek opportunities, secure resources and promote the work  
2 of the rangeland center faculty and staff;

3 (iv) To provide input for annual evaluation of faculty members  
4 who have a portion of their position description dedicated to the  
5 rangeland center;

6 (v) To supervise staff assigned to the rangeland center; and

7 (vi) To oversee budgets secured by and assigned to the rangeland  
8 center.

9 (b) The rangeland center shall be under the control of the state board  
10 of regents of the university of Idaho through the deans of the colleges  
11 of natural resources and agricultural and life sciences who shall have  
12 the power and whose duty it shall be to appoint or designate the director  
13 and such faculty and staff as may be necessary, and to fix their compen-  
14 sation.

15 (3) The rangeland center shall:

16 (a) Empower researchers and educators at the university of Idaho who  
17 strive to create insight and foster understanding for the stewardship  
18 and management of rangelands;

19 (b) Work in union with external partners to focus research, education  
20 and outreach to produce solutions that are responsive and relevant to  
21 contemporary rangeland issues;

22 (c) Engage partners and stakeholders to jointly provide leadership  
23 for discovery of new knowledge and create science-based solutions for  
24 rangeland management;

25 (d) Provide objective and relevant rangeland information for individu-  
26 als, organizations and communities;

27 (e) Offer learning opportunities for land stewardship;

28 (f) Establish a partner advisory council for the purpose of setting  
29 strategic goals for the rangeland center, assessing accomplishments  
30 relative to the strategic goals, conveying resources and opportunities  
31 to accomplish the work of the center and any further purposes as deter-  
32 mined; and

33 (g) Encourage and facilitate applied research to address specific  
34 issues and management challenges that arise on Idaho's diverse range-  
35 lands.

36 (4) The partner advisory council shall consist of ten (10) to fifteen  
37 (15) members, with a variety of backgrounds, interests and expertise related  
38 to rangelands. The initial council shall be appointed by the director of  
39 the rangeland center. The council shall establish guidelines for decision  
40 making and shall appoint one (1) of its members as chairman who shall there-  
41 after appoint additional members in consultation with the director, not to  
42 exceed fifteen (15) members. The council shall meet at a minimum annually  
43 and shall conduct annual and five (5) year reviews of the rangeland center  
44 and its performance based on strategic goals as established by the council.  
45 Such reviews shall be made available to the deans of the college of natu-  
46 ral resources and the college of agricultural and life sciences, the direc-  
47 tor of the university of Idaho cooperative extension, rangeland center fac-  
48 ulty members, advisory council members, and their respective stakeholders  
49 and constituents.

1           SECTION 2. That Chapter 7, Title 38, Idaho Code, be, and the same is  
2 hereby amended by the addition thereto of a NEW SECTION, to be known and des-  
3 ignated as Section 38-716, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

4           38-716. RANGELAND CENTER ACT. This act shall be known and may be cited  
5 as the "Rangeland Center Act."

6           SECTION 3. SEVERABILITY. The provisions of this act are hereby declared  
7 to be severable and if any provision of this act or the application of such  
8 provision to any person or circumstance is declared invalid for any reason,  
9 such declaration shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of  
10 this act.